REMARKS

A minor amendment has been made to claim 35 to restore language originally in the claim. This language was not cancelled from claim 37, the computer program counterpart, and has been restored to claim 35.

The examiner has withdrawn the earlier indication of allowability, and made a new rejection of the two independent claims (35, 37) under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Salkewicz (US 5970502). The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The invention is directed to identifying a record of a first database, as part of a process of synchronizing the first database with a second database, by assigning a hash-based code to the record, and using the hash-based code in the synchronization process to determine whether the record is identical to a record of the second database.

Salkewicz teaches nothing even remotely relevant to the invention. The only resemblance of Salkewicz and the invention is that both use the word, "hash".

In the invention of claims 35 and 37, a hash process is used to compute a "hash number based on at least a portion of the content" of a first record. The hash number is "insufficient to reconstruct the record but sufficient to identify the record." The hash number is used in the synchronization "to determine whether a record of the second database is identical to the first record."

In Salkewicz, a process known as "hash buckets" is used to assign the records of a database to segments, so that one segment at a time can be synchronized. This is an alternative to simply assigning the records sequentially. To assign the records using hash buckets, modulo-3 arithmetic is performed on the record number of each record, and records are assigned to a hash bucket based on the outcome of that arithmetic. In the example shown (FIGS. 9A-9C), the result is that the first segment contains records 6, 12, and 9, whereas with the sequential assignment technique (FIGS. 8A-8F), the first segment contains records 1, 2, and 4. Thus, at most, the hash process merely selects the segment into which a record is to be placed.

Thus, in at least two enormous respects, Salkewicz falls short of the claims. First, Salkewicz does not compute a hash number based on at least a portion of the content of a record, and then use that hash number in the synchronization to determine whether the record is identical

to another record. At most, Salkewicz uses the outcome of the modulo-3 arithmetic operation on the record number to determine merely the segment to which the record is to be assigned.

Second, Salkewicz does not compute a hash number that is "insufficient to reconstruct the record but sufficient to identify the record." Clearly, the outcome of the modulo-3 arithmetic is not sufficient to identify a record in Salkewicz, because a plurality of records produce the same modulo-3 outcome, as a plurality of records get assigned to the same hash bucket.

Kucala, the examiner's other reference, is relevant at most merely to show that scheduling, diary, and contact manager databases were known at the time of the invention.

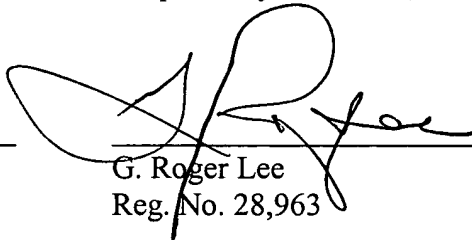Accordingly, independent claims 35 and 37 are allowable.

The remaining claims are all properly dependent on one or more of the independent claims, and thus allowable therewith. Each of the dependent claims adds one or more further limitations that enhance patentability, but those limitations are not presently relied upon. For that reason, and not because applicants agree with the examiner, no rebuttal is offered to the examiner's reasons for rejecting the dependent claims. Kucala, the examiner's other reference, is at most relevant for the proposition that scheduling, diary, and contact manager databases were known.

Allowance of the application is requested.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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